

# INFORMATION REPORT

## CONFIDENTIAL

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(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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COUNTRY

SUBJECT Export of Opium from Tientsin through  
Chinese Communist Government Bureau

25X1A

DATE OF  
INFO. May 1950

1. There exists in Tientsin a section of the Trade Bureau, known as the Special Trade Products Administration (T'ie Ch'eng Mou I Sheng Lu Li Chu 特種貿易生爐理局 known in abbreviated form as Mou I Sheng Tsang 產 Chu). This is an official department, the members wearing the civil worker's blue uniform. The task of this department is to organize the sale of opium overseas, and to this end deals are arranged with members of ships crews sailing to Hong Kong.
2. In May 1950 opium was being sent to Hong Kong by sea from Tientsin, or by rail to Canton and thence by land.
3. The opium sent by sea is usually grown in Jehol and Manchuria but some is from old Japanese stocks. That going by land included the Yunnan and Szechuen product as well. As each ball weighs 139 taels, it is referred to as "139" in business. It dries up somewhat when travelling and probably weighs only 136 taels on arrival in Hong Kong.
4. The members of this department arrange deals with crew members on a cash and carry basis. For every tael carried the carrier receives 5 Hong Kong dollars. If a person is prepared to carry opium he can either pay for it in cash (gold bars or U.S. dollars only) or take it on consignment. In this case, the carrier is given a paper with a chop on it which is torn in half. He then sails for Hong Kong and soon after arrival the agent comes on board and produces the other half of the chop, against which the opium is handed over. The carrier is then paid his carrying money.
5. If the carrier is trusted, and can produce good guarantors, he may take up to 2,000 taels per trip. An export permit is arranged for Tientsin authorities. On receipt of the opium, the Communist agent in Hong Kong wires Tientsin. Recently a crew member tried to defraud the Communists, by declaring that the Customs had confiscated the opium. The person was arrested on his next trip to Tientsin and is now in prison. 25X1X

25X1A Comment. [REDACTED] the Communist Government in Peiping was offering as much as 50 tons of opium in May 1950. See also [REDACTED]

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